



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*Press Release***



7073 RADIO ROAD
FORT POLK LA 71459-5342
Voice: (337) 531-1418
Fax: (337) 531-2403

Release Number: 030104

March 9, 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Maj. Ron Elliott 337-531-1418

Samantha Bingham 337-531-4630

**519th Military Police Battalion returns from Iraq:
Ceremony set for Wednesday**

Fort Polk, La.--- A welcome home ceremony to honor approximately 60 members of the Task Force 519th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade is set for Wednesday March 10th, at 4:00 p.m., at the Warrior Brigade Gym here.

Task Force 519th MP Bn deployed March 19th, 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The mission of the 519th is to provide stability and support in returning Iraq to the control of the Iraqi people, reconstituting the Iraqi Police Force and transforming it into a police service, and on improving the quality of life for the citizens of Baghdad.

Throughout the deployment, all assigned and attached units performed their missions with the utmost of excellence while in constant threat from guerilla-type attacks from former Regime Loyalists, Baath Party members, Saddam Loyalists, insurgents, organized criminal gangs and terrorist networks.

Their numerous accomplishments throughout their 340 days in a combat environment include conducting 186 raids against counterfeiters, kidnappers, carjackers, car "chop shops", and known criminal gangs. Results from these raids also led to intelligence resulting in the capture of numerous blacklist and gray list personnel. They also confiscated over 6,000 military-grade weapons, 100,000 rounds of various types of ammunition, and six Iraqi printing presses, with over 20.5 billion Iraqi Dinar, and 1.6 million dollars of U.S. counterfeit currency.

Task Force 519th MP Bn reconstituted five District Police Headquarters, the East Baghdad Police Headquarters, the Baghdad Traffic Headquarters and five Traffic Sector buildings. The Traffic Police Sector consists of over 1,860 who are now trained and equipped, thanks to the efforts of the 519th. They reconstituted IPS Crime Lab, seeking

519th Ceremony/ 2-2-2

out experts from the FBI, Coalition Provisional Authority, and Explosives Ordinance Units to train, equip, and oversee operations

Amidst a high operational tempo, the 519th MP Bn supported two local orphanages, including a Christmas party for over 80 children at the Baghdad Convention Center. They also supplied numerous schools in their sector with supplies, clothing, books, and morale visits.

The event is open to the public and the local community is encouraged to attend.

Come out and support your troops.

- end -

Media wishing to cover the ceremony should contact Maj. Ron Elliott at (337) 531-1418 or Samantha Bingham at (337) 531-4630.